

# BOROUGH OF MONMOUTH



A N N U A L            R E P O R T

O F                    T H E

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

F O R   T H E   Y E A R   1 9 6 3

Council Offices,  
Monmouth

E. N. DOWELL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health

MONMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Councillor R. H. George, J.P.

Deputy Mayor

Councillor W. L. Bigham

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Mr. T. J. Griffiths

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Mr. A. S. Griffiths

Mr. M. L. Pearce

Mr. R. N. Smith

Mr. E. I. Willis

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Town Clerk - R. Wallis, A.I.M.T.A.

\*\*\*\*\*

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Councillor R. H. George, J.P.

Alderman B. Partridge

Councillor P. C. Harris

Councillor Mrs. E. Smith

Councillor Dr. G. E. Griffiths

Councillor A. S. Griffiths

Councillor E. I. Willis

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Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health

E. N. Dowell M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

W. A. Haigh M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

# BOROUGH OF MONMOUTH



MONMOUTH.

September, 1963.

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Monmouth.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1963.

The health of the Borough was satisfactory.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Haigh for his help and co-operation.

I remain,  
Your obedient Servant,

E. N. DOWELL

Medical Officer of Health.

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## STATISTICS

The estimated mid-year population was 5,800. In 1962 it was 5,780. The natural increase, i.e. the figure that the number of births exceeds the number of deaths, was 22. The natural increase in 1962 was 24.

### Births

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	45	44	89
Illegitimate	2	3	5

The highest number of births recorded since 1950 was 111 in 1952 and the lowest was 73 in 1959.

The live birth rate per 1000 of population for Monmouthshire was 18.94.

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3

In 1952, 1953 and 1961 three still births were recorded. In 1960 and 1962 there were no still births.

### Infant Mortality

#### Deaths of Infants under one year of age

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2		2

The following gives a list of the deaths of infants under one year of age, giving age at, and cause of death:-

- (i) 6 days      1(a) Cerebral haemorrhage and atelectasis  
                      (b) Prematurity (34 weeks)
- (ii) 1 week      1(a) Septicaemia (Neonatal).

There were no deaths of infants under one year of age in 1960 and 1961. There were 5 deaths in 1961.

The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births for Monmouthshire was 25.57.

	<u>Deaths</u>		
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths	43	39	82

There were 56 deaths in 1959 and 81 in 1951.

There were 4 deaths attributed to malignant disease of the lung in 1956.

The following table gives a classification of the cause of death and the number attributed to each cause.

The death rate per 1,000 of population for Monmouthshire was 13.67.

DEATHS IN MONMOUTH BOROUGH, 1962

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	4
Coronary disease, angina	10	9
Hypertension with heart disease	1	
Other heart disease	1	7
Other circulatory disease	2	2
Pneumonia	1	
Bronchitis	5	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum		1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	5	3
All other accidents		5
	<hr/> 43 <hr/>	<hr/> 39 <hr/>



## GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

### Diphtheria

For twelve consecutive years no cases have been notified.

### Diphtheria Immunisation

During the year, 113 children were immunised against diphtheria. Of this number 25 were babies born in 1963 and 59 were babies born in 1962.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis in 1963, so it was not necessary to suspend immunisations.

### Poliomyelitis

For the sixth consecutive year, there were no notifications. In 1957 three confirmed cases were notified and a fourth was registered as Lymphocytic Meningitis, probably poliomyelitis. Previous to this, for six years, only one notification was not confirmed.

### Food Poisoning

No cases were notified.

### Dysentery

No cases were notified. In 1960, there were 34 notifications.

### Tuberculosis

No primary notifications of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were received. In 1954 there were 19 notifications.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER

The main water supply of the town is supplied by the Wales Gas Board, Monmouth Gas & Water Undertaking. There are three separate sources of supply:-

- (1) High Pressure, Buckholt
- (2) Low Pressure, Buckholt
- (3) River from Mayhill

(1) High Pressure, Buckholt. Supplies 110,000 galls.  
per day

### Source

The known source is a spring in an opening in the rock formation in a large quarry situated in woodland owned by the Monmouth Gas and Water Undertaking. This land is fenced off.

The possibility of contamination at source is reduced to animal wild life. The gathering grounds consist of:-

- (a) Woodland
- (b) Agricultural land forming sides  
of hill

As spring is near top of a syncline in the rock formation it is possible that there may only be contamination from this agricultural land during heavy rainfall.

Bacteriological samples of raw water have shown faecal contamination both in dry and wet periods.

### Collection, Purification and Distribution

Water from gathering grounds drains to inaccessible chamber buried under road, and to collecting chambers within boundary of plot of land owned by the Undertaking.

The water is piped from these collecting chambers to storage tanks.

Chlorine solution is drip fed into storage tanks via 1" galvanised pipe, which required periodic descaling.

The chlorinated water passes from storage tanks to main to Buckholt Water Works. Here it is filtered and passed out to town mains.

At Highfield Road this supply is fed into 75,000 gallon storage tanks which feed Osbaston and town, including the Kymin, via hydrostat, and Wyesham.

- (2) Low Pressure, Buckholt Supplies 1241,000 galls.  
per day

#### Source

The origin of source is unknown, gathering grounds are probably Buckholt Woods.

This source is permanently contaminated as the woods are open.

#### Collection, Purification and Distribution

Spring water collects in chamber by side of road below Cider Mill Cottage and is piped to Buckholt Water Works. Here it is chlorinated, then passed through slow sand filters and into the town mains. These mains go across country to Leasbrook Lane and feed Dixon Road, etc.

#### Water Works, Buckholt

These consist of:-

- (1) High Pressure filter
- (2) Two slow sand filters
- (3) Drip feed chlorination. Chlorine solution made from chloride of lime.

- (3) Mayhill Supply Supplies 171,000 galls.  
per day.

This is mainly river water pumped.

#### Water Works, Mayhill

These consist of:-

- (1) Storage tank, 245,000 gallons
- (2) Two slow sand filters
- (3) Chlorination tanks
- (4) Clean water storage, 12,000 gallons

The water passes through sand filters, is chlorinated by drip feed in clean water storage tanks.

Data

Mayhill Clean Water Storage	12,000 gallons
Osbaston Clean Water Storage	75,000 gallons
Mayhill Storage	245,000 gallons

Consumption

(1)	Mayhill	171,000 gallons
(2)	High Pressure	140,000 gallons
(3)	Low Pressure	124,000 gallons

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Total	435,000 gallons
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There are 1,351 houses with baths.

The supply was regularly sampled for bacteriological examination and of 62 samples taken 62 were satisfactory

Generally the water is fresh and pleasing to the palate and is of moderate hardness.

Some premises in the centre of the town have been experiencing difficulty in getting a supply to the third storey but it is hoped this will be remedied by the building of additional storage tanks.

3 samples were taken from other supplies, and were unsatisfactory and users were advised to boil water before drinking.

Several private supplies still remain unsatisfactory for a period after heavy rain, most of which have now had Meta filters fitted.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

20 new houses and flats were connected to the sewer;  
2 new houses were connected to septic tanks.

The first sewerage system of the Borough came into operation in 1897; it was a combined system and still exists. Several alterations have, however, since been made.

- (1) Overmonnow and Brook Estate have been modified to a separate system.
- (2) Three areas drained in separate systems have been connected to the system:-
  - (a) New housing scheme at Brook Estate
  - (b) Development at Old Hereford Road
  - (c) Wyesham and Victoria Estates.

The combined sewers of the central area of the town are relieved by four stormwater overflows sited as follows:-

- (1) Eastern Gate
- (2) Watkins' Row
- (3) Chippenhamgate Street
- (4) Wye Syphon

these discharge the storm water into the River Wye.

All sewers on the west side of the Wye drain by gravity to a pumping station sited in the eastern corner of the Cattle Market, whence sewage is lifted by means of two manually operated electrically driven pumps and pumped to treatment works situated on the eastern side of the Monmouth By-Pass.

### Chippenham Treatment Works

The Chippenham treatment works consist of:-

- (a) Two settling tanks
- (b) Twelve contact beds
- (c) Two sludge lagoons

These works are sixty years old and out of date and are unable to deal with the sewage in a satisfactory manner.

### Redbrook Road Works

Sewage on east side of Wye gravitates to a position near the opening to the present inverted syphon on the east bank of the River Wye. A pumping station has been constructed on Corporation land behind the Monmouth School pavilion. A pumping main has been laid across the School playing fields, following the line of the old sewer, to the Redbrook Road and along the road to the treatment works.

The works consist of:-

Number Phase 1	Number when all Phases complete	Description
2	2	Detritus Chambers & Screens
2	4	Settlement Tanks
2	4	Filter Beds
4	6	Humus Tanks
6	12	Sludge Beds

together with various pumps and mains at the treatment works.

Sewage first goes to the detritus chambers and screens where large solids are screened and passed direct to the sludge drying beds. Sewage passing through the detritus screens goes next to the settlement tanks where



biological action takes place and the solids left again go through to the sludge drying beds. Liquid sewage, with suspended solids, from the settlement tanks is then passed through to the filter beds. Bacteriological action takes place in these beds further breaking down the liquids into non-noxious parts. From the filter beds the liquid goes to the humus tanks where all remaining suspended solids are precipitated and passed to the sludge drying beds. The remaining liquid, which is now virtually pure, is then discharged into the river. Any liquid remaining in the sludge drying beds drains off and is passed back for further treatment. The sludge when dry is removed.

During the year difficulty was experienced at the new works when excessive quantities of gas effluent were released. Even normal flows of gas works effluent are resulting in unsatisfactory final effluent results.

#### Chippenham Works

The effluent continued to be unsatisfactory and steps to cease using these works have been taken.

#### Unsewered Areas

There still remains three areas of the town without a sewerage system, namely:-

- (a) Northern area - Manson Cross, Manson Heights, and Manson Lane
- (b) Osbaston
- (c) Leasbrook Lane and the lower half of Dixon Road.

These properties are served by individual septic tanks constructed and maintained by the user. Outside the areas already discussed are scattered cottages, some of which have septic tank drainage, the remainder using chemical and bucket closets.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING

The total area of collection remains the same as for previous years.

The distribution, however, has been altered considerably by the building of an estate of 62 houses at Wyesham. Here, despite co-operation by tenants, the bins have to be carried considerable distances to the lorry. A paper sack system has been instituted on this estate and is working very satisfactorily.

Weekly collection is made to most of the area, certain outlying areas receive a fortnightly collection. All business premises in the centre of the town receive three collections weekly.

#### REFUSE DISPOSAL

The majority of the tip is covered with a top dressing of soil, only the tipping face being left exposed. The cessation of paper salvage has led to the tip almost permanently being afire.

The fly population is reduced to a minimum by the use of insecticides and regular treatment for rats takes place.



## HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses owned by the Local Authority:-

(1) Under the Housing Acts	599
(2) Other Powers	4

Number of houses erected during the year:-

(a) By Local Authority	6
(b) By other Bodies and Persons	18
Total	24

Of this number the following were erected with State Assistance under Housing Acts:-

(a) By Local Authority	Nil
(b) By other Bodies and Persons	Nil

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year.

(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for defects (under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts)	28
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	84

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	5
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(1) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 of the Housing Act, 1957	Nil
(a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts	
(a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	Nil

3. (2) (b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice

(i)	By the Owners	Nil
(ii)	By the Local Authority in the Default of Owners	Nil

- (3) Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1936

(a)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
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(b)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
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(c)	Undertakings given and accepted	Nil
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(d)	Number of separate houses or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
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(e)	Number of separate houses or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the house or room having been rendered fit	Nil
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(4 )	Clearance Area - Houses demolished	4
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4. Improvement Grants

The use of improvement grants to bring houses up to modern standards is still being encouraged.

Standard Grants - 8,      Discretionary Grants - 9

### CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES

There has been a steady increase in the past years in the number of caravan and tent sites and below is a list showing numbers:-

Site	No. of Vans	W.Cs.	Taps	Gullies	Bins
Drybridge Street	15	1M 1F	2	2	2
Old Hadnock Road	8 vans 5 tents	1M 2F	2	2	3
"Riverside", Homestead Old Hadnock Road	12	3M 3F	4	8	9
King's Orchard, Manson	6	1M 1F	1	1	3

The above are licenced sites; besides those several fields adjoining the river are used by Exempted Organised Bodies. The number of tents on these sites varies considerably from 2 to 30.

### SWIMMING POOLS

There are now three pools, one at Monmouth School for Girls, one at Monmouth School and one owned by the Monmouth and District Swimming Pool Association.

Samples submitted for bacteriological examination were satisfactory.

### SCHOOLS

All schools are on the main sewerage system, and all schools are on the main water supply. Samples of milk and water were taken periodically by Monmouthshire County Council.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Unsound Food

The following miscellaneous foodstuffs were condemned:-

Meat	75 tins	Fish	34 tins
Fruit	110 tins	Tomatoes	244 tins
Vegetable	132 tins	Miscellaneous	94 tins
Milk		4 tins	
Bacon		35 lb.	
Pig's kidney		14 lb.	
Halibut		6¼ lb.	
Sprats		1 stone.	

### Distribution of Food Premises by Trades

Butchers	12	Fishmongers	2
Greengrocers	6	Grocers	11
General	19	Hotels	5
Guest Houses	4	Licenced Premises	35
Clubs	4	Schools	7
Fish & Chip Shops	3	Cafes	9
Bakers	3	Miscellaneous	3
Poultry Preparing Premises	2	<u>Total</u>	125

### Premises Registered under Foods and Drugs Act, 1955, S.16

Ice Cream Premises	25
Fish and Chip Shops	3
Sausage & Cooked Meats	9

Almost all the work required by Food Hygiene Regulations has been carried out.

### Disposal of Condemned Food

The unsound food from shops is disposed of at the Refuse Tip, Brooksholme by incineration.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts, 1949

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	*(1)	*(2)	*(3)	*(4)	*(5)
Number of properties in Local Authority's District	8	1758	511	2277	32
Number of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification	Nil	170	29	199	3
(b) Survey under the Act	36	12	8	56	-
Total inspections carried out including re-inspection	100	551	87	738	-
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infected by					
Rats (Major)					
(Minor)	20	2	Nil	-	-
Mice (Major)					
(Minor)	-	-	-	-	-
Number of infested properties treated by the L. A.	20	159	29	208	-
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	20	159	29	208	-
Number of 'Block' control schemes carried out	6				

\*(1) - Non-agricultural type - Local Authority

\*(2) - - Dwelling Houses (inc. Council houses)

\*(3) - - All other (inc. business premises)

\*(4) - Total of Columns (1), (2) and (3)

\*(5) - Agricultural type.



FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspec- tions	Written notices	
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities	5	12	Nil	Nil
Factories not in- cluded above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	47	52	Nil	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (Exclud- ing outworkers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	52	64	Nil	Nil

## 2. Cases in which defects were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more separate "cases".)

	No. of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) a. Insufficient b. Unsuitable or defective c. Not separate for sexes				1	
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil









